

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /030 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, ID

SUBJECT: MPEAA OFFICIAL VISITS INDONESIA

REF : (A) JAKARTA 12033, (B) JAKARTA 6631, (C) JAKARTA 5604

1. MOTION PICTURE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MPEAA)
MANILA REP ROBERT PERKINS CAME TO JAKARTA WEEK OF SEPT 20
FOR SHOWDOWN WITH JAKARTA PETROLEUM CLUB WHICH HE TOLD EMBOFF
REGULARLY SCREENS PIRATED AMERICAN MOTION PICTURES. PERKINS
SAID UNLESS CLUB IMMEDIATELY CEASED ITS ILLEGAL MOVIE OPERATIONS,
HE WOULD INFORM GOI CENSOR BOARD AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES,
BOTH OF WHOSE REGULATIONS WERE BEING BROKEN BY CLUB. HE
ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT LEARNING SOURCE OF PIRATED FILMS WAS OF
MUCH GREATER PRIORITY, SINCE MPEAA MEMBERS WERE LOSING ROYALTIES
OF \$45 MILLION PER YEAR THROUGH WIDESPREAD USE OF HIJACKED
FILMS.

2. PERKING TELEPHONED EMBOFF FOLLOWING MEETING WITH CLUB
OFFICIALS TO PASS ON NEWS THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO STOP
SHOWING ILLEGAL FILMS AT ONCE. HE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN
LEARNING FROM THEM SOURCE OF ILLEGAL FILMS AND SAID HE
DOUBTED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO WRING THE INFORMATION FROM THEM.

3. PERKINGS HAD LITTLE NEW TO OFFER ON SUBJECT OF IMPORT
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QUOTAS ON FILMS OR MPEAA BAN ON EXPORT OF US FILMS TO

INDONESIAN IN REACTION TO GOI-ESTABLISHED CONSORTIA TO IMPORT FILMS (REFS B AND C). HE REITERATED THAT MPEAA HAD NOT OBJECTED TO YEARLY REDUCTIONS IN IMPORT QUOTA (IT WOULD ONLY BEGIN TO BITE WHEN REDUCED TO 100) BUT SAID IF GOI ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT TOTAL BAN ON FOREIGN FILM IMPORTS BY 1978 (REF A) THIS WOULD BE RESTRICTION OF TRADE WHICH HE WOULD EXPECT USG TO SEEK TO ELIMINATE. HE AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN PROTESTING QUOTA AS LONG AS MPEAA BAN REMAINED IN EFFECT AND SAID ASSOCIATION WAS PREPARED TO WAIT UP TO A YEAR OR MORE FOR CONSORTIA "TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH."

4. COMMENT: GOI INTENTIONS REGARDING IMPORTED FILMS ARE LESS THAN CLEAR. EXACTLY ONE WEEK AFTER PROCLAIMING TOTAL BAN ON IMPORTED FILMS BY 1978 (REF A), INFORMATION MINISTER MASHURI WAS QUOTED BY SEPT 18 INDONESIAN TIMES AS SAYING THAT "ALTHOUGH IMPORTED FILM QUOTA WOULD BE REDUCED TO NIL IN 1978, A LIMITED NUMBER OF SELECTED FILMS WOULD STILL ENTER INDONESIA." THAT EVENING MASHURI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOI'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO HALD IMPORTATION OF FILMS BY THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR TASTE AND CULTURE OF INDONESIA. HE REFERRED TO "THE CHINESE MAFIA" WHICH HE SAID CURRENTLY HAD TOTAL CONTROL OF FILM IMPORTS. HE ADDED THAT WHILE HE WANTED TO BUILD UP LOCAL MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY HE REALIZED THAT INDONESIA WOULD STILL WANT TO IMPORT SELECTED FOREIGN FILMS. MASHURI HAS NOT YET CLARIFIED MANNER IN WHICH TOTAL BAN WILL BE CIRCUMBENTED TO ALLOW SELECTED FOREIGN FILMS TO ENTER INDONESIA. THAT SOME MEANS MUST BE DEvised IS APPARENT UNLESS GOI IS PREPARED TO FACE WIDESPREAD THEATER CLOSURES, SINCE FEW OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE LOCAL INDUSTRY COULD FILL GAP CREATED BY TOTAL BAN. END COMMENT.)

5. PERKINS SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO JAKARTA WITHIN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AND WOULD PROBABLY SEEK EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING A CALL ON MINISTER MASHURE.
NEWSOM

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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